

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /033 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO USDA/FAS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6426

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0610

TOFAS 05/CR7004

FOR SUGAR & TROPICAL PRODUCTS DIV.

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SUGAR, CODE 19 ALERT

1. COSTA RICA HAS INCREASED THE MAXIMUM PRICE PERMISSIBLE FOR THE DOMESTIC SALE OF GRANULATED SUGAR. THE NEW RATES BECAME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10 AND REPLACE THE RATES THAT HAD BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE OCTOBER 23, 1975. THE NEW RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS: FOR EACH 460 GRAMS (OLD RATE SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS): A) SUGAR WITH MINIMUM 99.5 DEGREE POLARIZATION: 1) WHOLESALE, COLONES 1.14 (COLONES 0.88); 2) RETAIL, COLONES 1.30 (COLONES 1.00); B) SUGAR WITH MINIMUM 99.8 DEGREE POLARIZATION: 1) WHOLESALE, COLONES 1.27 (COLONES 1.08); 2) RETAIL, COLONES 1.45 (COLONES 1.22).

2. IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NO GROWTH IN COSTA RICA'S SUGAR PRODUCTION WHILE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION HAS INCREASED BY SOME THIRTY PERCENT, THEREBY LEAVING SMALLER ACSVNTS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS INCREASED PRODUCTION COSTS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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REDUCED RETURNS FROM EXPORT SALES HAVE HAD ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. IN THE YEAR JUST ENDED, CONTRABAND SALES TO PANAMA INCREASED AFTER PANAMA RAISED THE RETAIL PRICE OF SUGAR TO US\$0.20 PER POUND. THIS ILLEGAL SUGAR MOVEMENT HELPED TO CAUSE A LOCAL SHORTAGE OF REFINED SUGAR THAT MADE NECESSARY THE IMPORT OF 2,000 TONS OF REFINED SUGAR FROM NICARAGUA. THE INCREASE IN

LOCAL PRICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUGUST 1976
REDUCTION IN THE EXPORT TAX TO 8.5 PERCENT FROM 20.5
PERCENT SHOULD OFFER THE STIMULUS NECESSARY TO
INCREASE PLANTINGS AND IMPROVE MANAGENINT TECHNIQUES.
KILDAY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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